

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):       SAPIR, et al.  
Serial No.:         10/677,225  
Filed:              October 3, 2003  
Title:              A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING  
                      SUBSTANCE TO BE DETECTED CONTAINING AT LEAST  
                      ONE COMPONENT THAT IS DISPERSIBLE IN AIR IN THE  
                      FORM OF SOLID  
                      PARTICLES  
Group:             1797  
Examiner:         Siefke, S.  
Confirmation No.:   8599

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Mail Stop: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 4, 2008

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 4, 2008, in connection with the above-identified application.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP '057 in view of Jenkins et al. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

As noted by the Examiner, EP '057 discloses that “the air stream 71 in the line 48 enters the center of the coil 70 and travels radially there through as indicated by arrows 72” (page 17, lines 3 to 5 + **figure 10**). Accordingly, the filter

structure disclosed by EP '057 is significantly different from the one disclosed by pending claim 1 of the present patent application.

Since the filter described by EP '057 **does not contain** each of the elements forming the filter structure of the present patent application (hollow tubular outer casing, central element closed at one end...) and particularly **a central element** which is in the form of a hollow tube closed at one end, **“the air stream enters the center of the coil.”** Then, the air stream passes radially through the coil so that the air stream goes **from the interior to the exterior of the coil.**

The filter set forth in pending claim 1 of the present application comprises, as shown by way of example only in the figures of the application, a hollow tubular outer casing 32 containing a filter-forming element 34 which is supported on a central element 36. Said central element 36 is closed at one end 37. Thus, the air stream **can not enter** the center of the filter-forming element 34 but it passes through the filter-forming element 34 so that the air stream goes **from the exterior to the interior of the filter-forming element.**

Therefore the prior art document EP '057 neither discloses nor suggests the features of the filter as described in pending claim 1 of the present patent application. Furthermore, Jenkins only discloses to use flat filters (see the sample traps 22 and 24 on figures 2 to 5). The features of the filter as described by pending claim 1 of the present patent application are neither disclosed by nor would have been obvious over EP '057 and Jenkins taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, the subject-matter of pending claims 1 to 15 is novel and unobvious over the prior art.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based upon the above remarks, the presently claimed subject-matter is believed to be novel and non-obvious over the prior art. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections raised under 35 USC § 103. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to deposit Account No. 01-2135 (935.43189X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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